

# Total Quality Environmental Management



## Green Initiatives

### INTRODUCTION

As the federal government moves towards “reinvention, streamlining, and single process initiatives”, the work-force has been challenged to change from the input driven “command and control” structure of conducting business to new standards and related practices that are more flexible, efficient, and effective. To meet these needs, the Department of Defense (DOD) has set new policy to “increase its access to commercial state-of-the-art technology and facilitate the adoption by its suppliers of business processes that are characteristic of world class suppliers.” As part of these acquisition reform objectives, DOD has included the implementation and use of performance and commercial specifications and standards in lieu of military specifications and standards. One example of this reform movement is in the area of quality. We have removed the barriers to using commercial standards in two cases; the American Society for Quality Control Q90 Series and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9000 Quality Assurance and Management System (QMS) series. These are the commercial alternatives to meeting the requirements specified in MIL-Q-9858, Quality Program Requirements and MIL-I-45208A, Inspection Systems Requirements. DOD now faces a new standard, that addresses an international model for an Environmental Management System - ISO 14000 series.

### TQEM AND ISO 14000

The Total Quality Environmental Management (TQEM) is an TACOM-ARDEC thrust that provides linkage between our Quality programs with initiatives in Environmental Stewardship. The Quality Engineering Directorate (QED) provides management support to the U.S. Army Material Command’s Contractor Performance Certification Program (CP)<sup>2</sup>. The (CP)<sup>2</sup> certification process identifies contractors and Army activities committed to total quality, customer satisfaction, and continuous improvement in their design and development and/or production process. This “Best-in-Class” program is in consonance with ISO 9000, which forms the framework for the (CP)<sup>2</sup> evaluation criteria. The TQEM is designed to expand these current in-house efforts to now include ISO 14000 and to use the framework created by the (CP)<sup>2</sup> thrust as a springboard for further certification efforts.

The ISO 14000 series is a new international benchmark tool designed to help business units respond to their obligations to protect the environment. The standards tie the mandatory requirements (regulations, industry codes, etc.,) into a internal management system with objectives and targets focused on improving pollution prevention performance beyond the regulations.

The Quality Engineering Directorate has teamed up with other Army activities to implement pilot programs, where Army (CP)<sup>2</sup> organizations have voluntarily adopted the ISO 14000 standards. These pilot programs will provide an opportunity to review and assess an implementation process through data collection, analysis of metrics, cost incurred/avoidance, and decision making requirements. Further, the knowledge base gained through the pilot programs will provide technology transfer and lessons learned that would feed into the Army and DOD ISO 14000 implementation policy. Finally, the pilot programs offer an excellent opportunity to later partner with our materiel providers to jointly pursue acquisition reform strategies.

### BENEFITS

By expanding our quality efforts to now include ISO 14000, defense agencies and contractors will benefit by leveraging our programs to:

- ☐ Achieve ISO 9000 QMS certification.
- ☐ Achieve ISO 14000 EMS certification.
- ☐ Have improved quality, reduced operations costs, and “Green” products for both U.S. and foreign military sales.
- ☐ Enhanced competitive position and facilities reputation.
- ☐ Reduced Government oversight.

For additional information, please contact

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# TACOM Quality Federation

<http://qa.pica.army.mil/TQF>